

News Release



Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connell

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE CONTROLLER KATHLEEN CONNELL STANDS BY PLAN TO TRACK ENERGY PAYMENTS

March 13, 2001, Sacramento – State Controller Kathleen Connell today said her office has received numerous requests for information on California's electricity purchases but that legal issues prevent her from releasing the data. "I want consumers to know how their money is being spent, and I plan to release the information as soon as I am able to," Connell said.

Connell has been tracking California's electricity purchases since January and had plans to post that information on her web page. However, Governor Gray Davis' Administration informed the Controller's Office that releasing the information may jeopardize ongoing negotiations for short- and long-term power.

In the meantime, public records requests have been trickling in from news organizations. Public officials have also requested that the Controller release the data. In light of the Governor's concerns, the requests have been forwarded to Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

"There are exceptions to the public records act, but that's an issue for the lawyers," Connell said. "I've asked Attorney General Bill Lockyer to determine whether there are restrictions on this information." A determination by the Attorney General's office is expected within the next couple of days.

"Safeguarding taxpayer's money is one of my major concerns, and I believe making this information public could help," Connell said. "Unfortunately, as long as there are concerns over negotiations, I can't release the information."